

ESC Today

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The Magazine of the 143rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

JUNE 2009



2009 The Year of the Noncommissioned Officer



Army NCO - No One is More Professional than I...

THE COMMAND POST

BY COL SCOTTIE D. CARPENTER, COMMANDER
143RD SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY) ARC2



This year we celebrate the men and women known as the backbone of our Army, the non-commissioned officer corps. Since 1775, the Army has set apart its NCOs from other enlisted Soldiers by distinctive insignia of grade. When missions are being accomplished, and when wars are being won, in the middle of the action you will find someone wearing stripes, training, leading, mentoring and caring for Soldiers. NCOs are on point!

Our NCO corps has more than 200 years of service to the Army and to the nation and it has distinguished itself as the world's most accomplished group of military professionals. As a nation and Army at war, each day throughout the world there are accounts of life as an NCO exemplified by acts of bravery, and a willingness to do whatever it takes to complete the mission.

NCOs have been decorated for service in military events ranging from Valley Forge to Gettysburg, to charges on Omaha Beach and battles along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, to current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. Within the long ranks of the 143rd, we have NCOs who have been decorated for valor and for combat action.

To recognize their commitment to service and willingness to make great sacrifices on behalf of our nation, the secretary of the Army established 2009 as Year of the NCO and this month as we celebrate the Army birthday, I think it is a good time to reflect on those who are on point for our missions all over the world.

NCOs are our nation's best ambassadors overseas. However, Army Reserve NCOs not only serve as American representatives overseas, but they are also the face of Army strength in their communities throughout our country. They are full-time patriots who serve part-time. They are small-unit leaders, trainers and guardians of standards.

Army Reserve NCOs are accomplished military professionals and have combined civilian and military education credentials that are superior to their active duty counterparts, and because of this high caliber, professional Soldier, the Army Reserve is able to provide trained, equipped, and ready Soldiers and cohesive units to meet global requirements across the full spectrum of operations. The Army Reserve is recognized and resourced as America's premier reservoir of shared military-civilian skills and capabilities that supports and defends the nation. This is all possible because of NCOs.

Right now, 12 percent of our Army Reserve force is mobilized and deployed. Today, nearly 30,000 Warrior Citizens, many of them NCOs, are serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and 18 other countries. The Army Reserve has mobilized more than 174,000 Army Reserve Soldiers since 9-11. To put that into perspective that's about 85 percent of the total Army Reserve end strength over time.

We are now an operational force and that could not have happened if we did not have the world's best NCO corps, caring and looking out for the welfare of Soldiers and their families.

Every officer, including me, fresh from the basic course remembers his first NCO leader – because it is this NCO, who has a wealth of Soldier experience and the ability to train and advise the newly commissioned officer. Throughout U.S. Army history, senior NCOs have helped lieutenants with field problems and have provided advice to young officers about how to deal with Soldier problems and how to care for Soldiers.

When you look back on your Army career, whether it is long or short, think about the first person that taught you something in the Army—odds are great, that person was an NCO.

It started with your recruiter, an NCO, who taught you about your career options within the Army, and then that responsibility transferred to your drill instructors who taught you how to be a Soldier and how to do your job. When you arrived at your first duty station, another NCO was there to teach you about duty responsibilities at your new unit. Step by step, an NCO was there guiding, mentoring and leading.

NCOs are inspirational and motivating. They are outstanding role models for all Americans and are exemplary subjects that are truly representative of the nation's moral character. There are not many times for officers to render a salute to enlisted personnel, so let this column serve as my formal salute to NCOs of the 143d ESC.

I salute you.

For more information about the Army's 2009 Year of the NCO campaign, visit the program's Website at <http://www.army.mil/yearofthenco/home.html>. Units are encouraged to develop local events that draw attention to their NCO corps. For more information, contact Capt. Steve Alvarez, 143rd ESC public affairs officer at steven.alvarez@usar.army.mil.

THE BOTTOM LINE

BY COMMAND SGT. MAJ. JAMES WEAVER

143RD SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY) ARC2

As you all know, the Army declared 2009 as The Year of the NCO (non-commissioned officer) and while participating in Year of the NCO events is important for our NCO corps and helps the public understand who we are and what we do, the most important thing you as an NCO or an NCO-to-be can do for yourself and for the Army Reserve is, attend NCOES.

As NCOs, we are the keepers of standards and in order to effectively enforce standards and teach others how to be good Soldiers we first have to learn about soldiering and refine our technical skills. How can we enforce standards and be responsible for training and leading troops if we are not trained ourselves?

A successful career in the Army, whether for one enlistment or a decades' long span, is based on a solid educational foundation. It starts in basic training and extends through the sergeants major academy.

The Army enables Soldiers to succeed. As Soldiers progress through the ranks they have resources and tools available to them that helps them take on greater responsibilities and enhances their skill set. Each level of NCOES helps refine the NCO commensurate with the level he is working. As the NCO rises to higher levels of responsibility and management, the Army provides professional educational opportunities to help the Soldier per-

form his/her duties.

We, as NCOs, are celebrated this year because we are the finest NCO corps the world has seen and because we are the backbone of the best Army in the world. We are lauded because of our professionalism and knowledge. Think about it. An NCO right now is what stands between good guys and bad; NCOs are training foreign forces in Iraq and Afghanistan; NCOs are meeting with tribal sheiks and serving as boots on the ground ambassadors for American foreign policies overseas.

NCOs are a trusted, skilled populace. We are recognized in 2009 because of our professionalism and we are able to perform all of these Herculean missions across the globe because of our training. Mission success depends on your educational foundation. If you do not go to school and improve yourself, you go into battle unprepared.

Readiness is not just about getting through SRP. You have to be mentally and educationally ready and that starts with NCOES.

The Army can equip you with the most modern weapons, the best protective gear, the lightest luggable items, but the best tool you bring to the battlefield is an enriched mind knowledgeable of how we do business. NCOES offers this to NCOs.

I know of no other profession in the world that offers such continuous fantastic training to its personnel. All you

have to do is go.

Soldiers are responsible for their career progression. I encourage all of you to take an active interest in your careers. Volunteer for the tough jobs, for hard duty and rise to challenges. Tell your supervisors to sign you up for NCOES and then come back to your units and apply what you have learned. Nobody will have your interest in mind more than you will.

Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, chief, Army Reserve, issued a directive in 2006 which is still in effect today requiring "Commanders, leaders, and staffs at all levels will ensure Soldiers complete the NCOES course commensurate with their current rank. Soldiers who fail to make satisfactory progress towards NCOES completion will be scheduled to attend NCOES as their annual training (AT)."

NCOs, please ensure that all of your eligible Soldiers are enrolled in NCOES as soon as possible. This is not only good for them, but it is good for your units. Trained and educated NCOs will improve the quality of our force and since this is "OUR" year, I cannot think of a better time to go and learn the tricks of our trade.



ESC Today

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Army Reserve News

A message from the chief, Army Reserve

The American Corporate Partners (ACP) mentorship program (<http://www.acp-usa.org/>) offers mentoring opportunities for veterans and spouses of wounded or deceased military personnel. They have completed their initial launch, and many of you have participated. They have a number of openings right now in Dallas and Philadelphia that remain unfilled, and they have asked if I could make those of you who live in those areas aware of the opportunities.

As you may recall, American Corporate Partners is not a jobs program. Instead, it provides mentoring opportunities for veterans, service members, retirees, and spouses in Atlanta, Chicago, Cincinnati, Dallas, Houston, New York, Norwalk, and Philadelphia. It is separate from the Army Reserve's Employer Partnership Initiative but offers (free of charge to the participants) opportunities for networking,

gaining insights from business leaders, and developing skills. ACP hopes to expand to another sixteen cities soon, so if you live in a different city, you may want to check back in a few months to see if your city has been added to their list.

For those interested, and not residing in cities where mentors are available to meet face-to-face, e-mentoring is also available. If you click on the link at the top of the website that says, "Program," you will reach a page that has a link to the e-mentoring link (bottom left side of the "Program" page). They require the same application that must be completed for the face-to-face mentoring.

JACK C. STULTZ

*Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Chief, Army Reserve*

Command Sergeant Major, Army Reserve, offers direction for Year of NCO

The Army Reserve Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) is the backbone of our modern day force structure.

The Secretary of the Army, Hon. Pete Geren, recognizes this fact and he has declared 2009 as the Year of the NCO.

As an NCO, you are empowered to lead the men and women with whom you serve. You are a mentor, an inspiration, an innovator, a colleague and sometimes, even a disciplinarian.

The officers in your unit look to you for guidance, knowledge, and expertise.

You are the binding agent between the officer corps and the junior enlisted Soldiers in your unit. You must always be "on top of your game" and challenge yourself to excel in all aspects of Army life.

While the Army Reserve continues to transform into our next 100 years, you will be called upon to "lead from the front." Not only are we in a fluid battle space Iraq and Afghanistan, our home front is fluid as well.

As our regional, operational, and functional commands and subordinate units realign, you will be the catalyst for continuity of operations. There is no room for indecision in day-to-day operations. By using sound judgment and looking at each task from every possi-

ble angle, you are charged with making the right decisions at the right time.

Our Army Reserve NCO Corps is among the best in the world. You are given the freedom to lead unlike any other NCO Corps around the globe. Military leaders in Allied nations are



continually amazed at how well our NCOs are trained and the responsibilities you are given.

When it comes to education, it is imperative as an NCO that you strive to continue to grow and develop - not only your military education, but your civilian education as well. Many of our

NCO leaders not only have the skills to excel in their military careers but these same skills and educational traits cross over into their civilian careers as well.

As an NCO Corps we need to practice good health initiatives. Our NCOs must incorporate their own individual health and fitness programs and instill in the Soldiers they lead to do the same. A strong and healthy NCO is the hallmark of a true leader.

There are very few born leaders. True leaders are developed over time. We can all think of some individual in our careers that instilled in us the traits of what a true leader is. We must build on these traits to continue the construction of a benchmark for today's young NCO leaders.

Do not take your duty as an NCO lightly. Follow the NCO Creed. It best sums up your duties.

Each paragraph starts with three important letters: N-C-O. This is no accident. The words contained in the Creed are not just words on a page they are your mandate for success. Know them by heart. Live them every day. If you do this, I promise you our Army Reserve will never fail!

LEON CAFFIE

*Command Sergeant Major
U.S. Army Reserve*

From downrange

Soldier Fills Gap With Civilian Skills

Story and photo by Pfc. Elisebet Freeburg
143rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Forward

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - As thousands of additional troops arrive in Afghanistan, one concern has been having enough civilian experts to fill an increasing shortage in support roles. Last month, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said he may ask reservists skilled in certain areas to deploy and fill those roles until replacements arrive.

Months earlier, Joint Sustainment Command Afghanistan already was putting soldiers' civilian skills to use. Army engineer 1st Lt. Alex R. Chester III originally filled an environmental science officer role with the 143rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command here.

Chester, who holds master's degrees in structural engineering, civil engineering and electrical engineering, has worked in the engineering field for 22 years and owns his own company, TAK Environmental Services.

"Before we moved out here, they found out that I had some engineering degrees and backgrounds," he said. "They asked me to be part of the torch party and come out here and fill that position and start the [building] of the 143rd compound." The torch party deployed before the main body of the 143rd ESC and ensured that living and work spaces were ready for the main body.

Chester said his current Army job is almost identical to his civilian job. "The only difference is that I don't have hazardous material to work with here," he said.

About 60 percent of Chester's civilian job is engineering, he explained, removing hazardous materials, performing demolitions and rebuilding structures. Now that he works in an engineering role for the Army, Chester will continue in that role for the rest of

his deployment.

Chester said he believes his civilian education and background benefit the Army.

"It helps a lot," he said. "In the Army, you're basically training with a single [military occupational specialty], whereas with my civilian background, I've had 22 years of work. I've been trained in a multitude of skills, and I can use those skills here."

As hundreds of soldiers arrive here weekly, Chester's expertise in engineering is an integral part of the build-up of

personnel into and throughout Afghanistan.

"One of our issues at the 143rd is power issues with the generators," Chester said. "I'm up night and day fixing the power, keeping it running, which is exactly the kind of stuff I like to do. I love electrical stuff."

Besides working for the sustainment command, Chester -- the only licensed engineer on base -- volunteered his services to the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program, a U.S. enterprise that uses civilian contractors to support U.S. service members.

"I work a lot with LOGCAP," he said. "I do a lot with electricity. They come to me for advice on what to do."

Army Master Sgt. Albert O. Ouellette, the 143rd ESC engineer non-commissioned officer in charge, works with Chester in building the 143rd ESC compound. The two soldiers have worked together since February. Besides building desks, walls, floors and chairs, they have worked on generators and electrical wiring.

"He's willing to help pretty much anybody," Ouellette said of Chester.

For example, Ouellette said, people will see Chester and stop to ask him for advice or bring by sketches to review or supply lists to check.

Chester helps contractors by rewiring buildings and planning structures. His skills have resulted in more bathrooms and showers for soldiers' living quarters. He also built the briefing and training office and the personnel and reception center for soldiers arriving here as part of the build-up. Because of Chester, buildings and tents get built faster.

"I think it's great, because I'm not sitting around a desk doing slide-shows," Chester said. "I'm out doing hands-on work, which I like to do."



Army 1st Lt. Alex R. Chester III installs wiring while building the 143rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command compound at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

forces as he designs and builds for Joint Sustainment Command Afghanistan. He designed the compound for the 143rd ESC and will build it as well. The 143d ESC leads the command in controlling movement of supplies and

From downrange

991st Transportation Company crowned champions at Camp Taji, Iraq

Story and photos by Capt. John T. Bowman
991st Transportation Company

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — On April 26, 2009 Soldiers of the 991st Transportation Company placed first in the 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion's Morale, Welfare and Recreation sports day competition.

Placing first in the Battalion's morale event was a great opportunity to demonstrate to other units within the 419th CSSB how effective and cohesive mobilized 143rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) units become after serving together for nearly eleven months, officials said.

The 991st TC has grown immensely since it began pre-mobilization training in June 2008. The unit incorporated cross-leveled Soldiers representing over one half dozen 143rd ESC units in order to fill its ranks for deployment.

Though initially challenging, the degree of geographic diversity brought on by the addition of

Soldiers from throughout the ESC has proven to be the edge that keeps the 991st TC among the best logistical units assigned to the 419th CSSB and 10th Sustainment Brigade.

With the plug and play concept brought on through force modularity, the 991st TC serves with two active Army companies, four National Guard Bureau companies, and one other Army Reserve company in one of the

largest battalions found in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The eight companies of the 419th CSSB went head to head all day long in athletic competition beginning at 0600 hours with a 5K run. The 991st TC guidon was the first of the eight company guidons to cross the finish line and that set the tone for the rest of the day.

By noon, the unit had won the kick-

led the unit volleyball team to a tournament championship.

The most enthusiastic win came from the 991st HMMWV (HUMVEE) push team. Five Soldiers from the 991st TC pushed a M1151 up-armored convoy protection vehicle from a stationary position 40 meters in 22.02 seconds, the fastest time in the competition.

By the end of the day, the 991st TC

won or placed second in enough categories to be recognized as 419th CSSB Spring MWR champions.

"The 991st Transportation Company is now the eight hundred pound gorilla in the room," said 10th Sustainment Brigade Command Sergeant Major Allen Fritzsching.

Later this

summer the 991st TC will transfer responsibility of its mission within the 419th CSSB to the 498th TC, another 143rd ESC unit.

When not deployed, the 991st TC falls under the 812th TC Battalion, 207th Regional Support Group, a brigade with the 143rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) headquartered in Orlando, Fla. The 991st deployed to Iraq in Dec. 2008.



991st Transportation Company Soldiers pose with their trophies after placing first in the 419th CSSB MWR sports day competition in Taji, Iraq.

ball tournament, placed second in the basketball tournament, and placed second in the softball tournament. During the afternoon, Sgt. 1st Class Terry Baumgardner from Kingsport, Tenn. and Staff Sgt. Johnny Moss from Laurel, Miss. placed first in the horseshoe toss. Cpl. Eric Smith from Laurel, Miss. defeated all challengers in table tennis and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Donald Dillon from Kingsport, Tenn.

Defense Department News

DoD Announces \$555 Million Expansion To Housing Assistance Program

By American Forces Press Service

The Department of Defense (DoD) today announced details for the temporary expansion of the Housing Assistance Program (HAP) using funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The \$555 million allocated to the HAP will be used to provide benefits to eligible military and DoD civilians who face financial losses selling their primary residence during the current housing downturn.

The DoD HAP has been providing financial assistance to military and DoD civilians for more than 40 years, and most recently, has been mainly used to provide benefits to personnel at base realignment and closure (BRAC) sites where government action caused a decrease in market home values. ARRA funding allows the DoD to temporarily expand this program in order to partially reimburse home sale losses in the following priority order:

- Wounded service members relocating for treatment or medical retirement, and for the survivors of those who have died while on deployment.
- Military and DoD civilians affected by the 2005 BRAC round, without the need (which existed under previous law) to prove that the base closure caused the local market decline.
- Normal military permanent change of station (PCS) moves, on a temporary basis.

Last February, Congress authorized ARRA funding for a temporary expansion of the HAP in order to address unique economic pressures faced by military personnel. After conducting an extensive analysis to determine how best to prioritize the finite \$555

million available while maximizing assistance to as many people as possible, the DoD developed specific eligibility criteria that includes PCS retroactivity from July, 1, 2006, through December, 31, 2009, and longer for wounded warriors/surviving spouses and personnel affected by BRAC.

Special eligibility criterion for this temporary program expansion is available on the HAP website at <http://hap.usace.army.mil>.

All active and former members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, as well as DoD civilians, who have sold a primary residence for a loss or are considering selling their home are encouraged to visit the HAP website in order to check specific program criteria, and if eligible, apply online.

Joint Summer Safety Campaign Aims to Reduce Off-duty Deaths

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — As Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates pushes to get deployed troops whatever they need to succeed and return home safely, the services are gearing up campaigns to reduce deaths at home during the summer vacation season that kicks off today.

The period between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day typically sees a big spike in vehicle and recreational accidents, Defense Department safety officials note. People tend to spend more time outside enjoying off-duty activities, and they travel more. The unfortunate result is that accident rates increase, too.

Last year, 115 service members died in off-duty accidents during the so-called "101 Critical Days of Summer."

Motor vehicles remained the No. 1 cause of off-duty military deaths, despite broad safety awareness efforts, officials reported. Motor vehicle acci-

dents claimed 88 service members' lives last summer.

Motorcycles were the biggest culprits, claiming 50 lives. Another 38 service members died last summer in cars, trucks, sport utility vehicles and vans.

To reduce those statistics this year, the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard launched the 2009 Safe Summer campaign earlier this month. Safety chiefs are emphasizing the importance of everyone — service members, civilians and family members alike — to make the campaign a success.

Just one loss is one too many, particularly for a military at war, said Brig. Gen. William T. Wolf, commander of the Army Combat Readiness and Safety Center at Fort Rucker, Ala.

"In combat, a soldier's battle buddy is frequently the first line of defense when it comes to affecting a soldier's decision-making process or reaction to a

particular situation," he said. "I am encouraging leaders, soldiers and family members to be a battle buddy this weekend to help ensure a great start to a fun, safe summer season."

Rear Adm. Arthur J. Johnson, commander of the Navy Safety Center, urged the Navy and Marine Corps communities to arm themselves with the information they need to avoid becoming statistics.

"Make a plan to stay safe while enjoying recreational and off-duty events," he said. "We're counting on you to know the statistics so you don't become one."

"The enemy 'risk' can be defeated, but it takes teamwork," said Army Command Sgt. Maj. Tod Glidewell, top noncommissioned officer at the USACR Safety Center. The team requires leaders, troops, civilians and family members alike, "both on and off duty, protecting our most precious resource to ensure 'no one stands alone,'" he said.

Defense Department News

Be prepared for hurricane season

By Tricare Management Activity

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – Are you ready for summer? The 2009 Atlantic Hurricane season begins in June, and though the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is forecasting a likely "near-normal" season, being prepared is the best way to keep you and your family safe in the event of a natural disaster. Even if you are not one of the more than 35 million people who live in the regions most affected by hurricanes, being informed of and prepared for what you should do in any emergency or disaster is a smart bet.

Be sure to have a complete emergency kit on hand. Keep it up to date and make sure everything works and your food and water has not expired. Along with food, water, a battery operated weather radio, flashlights and first aid supplies, include any medical necessities you may need in your kit. Keep in mind that medical assistance may not be immediately available after a disaster.

Below is a list of health-related items

to include in kits for each family member:

- Copies of each family member's uniformed services ID card (or sponsor's name and Social Security number), Medicare card or other health insurance card, if applicable
- Copies of family members' names, addresses, phone numbers, etc.
- Copies of medical records for each family member
- A list of primary care managers, other doctors' names and phone numbers
- Emergency contact names and phone numbers
- TRICARE Regional and pharmacy contractors and Medicare contacts
- A list of known prescription medications and doses
- A list of each family member's allergies

- A properly stored 30-day supply of prescription medications
- Non-prescription drugs such as pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medication, antacids, laxatives, itch control creams, etc.
- Style, model and serial numbers for any medical devices
- Extra batteries for wheelchairs and hearing aids
- Any personal items such as eye-glasses and other special equipment

For more information and more valuable tips on disaster preparedness please visit the Department of Homeland Security's preparedness Web page at: www.ready.gov/ or TRICARE's disaster relief Web page at: www.tricare.mil/disasterinfo. Some of the downloads on the page include a wallet card with critical contact information and a disaster preparation flyer.



(RIGHT): Two members of the Golden Knights, the U.S. Army's official parachute demonstration team, float through the air May 29, 2009 as part of a historical jump onto the grounds of the Statue of Liberty in New York City. The jump is part of the celebration of the Golden Knights 50th Anniversary. The demonstration was part of the Memorial weekend kick-off as members of the Gold demonstration team glided effortlessly toward Liberty Island, before a crowd of more than 3,000 spectators. The team's last jump at "Lady Liberty" was in 1978. This jump was coordinated through the New York Mayor's Office, New York City Police Harbor Unit, FAA, Coast Guard, National Park Service and U.S. Army Public Affairs. For more information about the Golden Knights yearlong 50th anniversary celebration or to learn more about the team's unique history visit: www.usarec.army.mil/hq/GoldenKnights Photo courtesy Golden Knights.

207TH REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUP

NEWS

Mayor of Columbia, S.C. recognizes Year of the NCO

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. W. Watson Martin
319th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Members of the 207th Regional Support Group visited the mayor's office to formally receive a signed proclamation of The Year of The NCO, which highlights noncommissioned officers' contributions throughout American military history.

"I think The Year of The NCO is very important," said Columbia city mayor Robert D. Coble. "Along with the families and spouses, the NCOs make up the heart and soul of the Army."

The relationship of NCOs with other members of the military family has been critical in the successful top to bottom shift of the 2005 base realignment and closure that has caused Fort Jackson to grow, said Coble.

"It was nice to be able to meet the mayor and represent my command," said Master Sgt. Eric Boles, a chief administrator for the 207th RSG. "I've been with the unit since January, and the NCOs I've met so far have been very outstanding."

Although NCOs seem to come and go – to and from – reserve units more

so than active components they are still instrumental in our fight to stay Army Strong, said Boles.

There are a lot of up and coming NCOs we expect to serve our command and the Army with great leadership, he said.



Columbia city mayor Robert D. Coble presents Army Master Sgt. Eric Boles, a chief administrator for the 207th RSG, a proclamation on behalf of the City of Columbia.

One such Soldier, Sgt. Darius Taylor, fits that description. He's been deployed to Kuwait with the 310th Personnel Group and now calls the 207th

RSG home where he works as a supply sergeant.

"When I first entered service over eight years ago it seemed NCOs got more respect than they do today," said Taylor. "It's still a strong corps ... we need to keep doing the right thing and lead enlisted and officers in the right direction."

"In the process of providing solid leadership I hope to see the respect level grow throughout the Army," he said. "You've got to appreciate all the hard work NCOs put forward in providing training at battle assembly and making mission success stories in Iraq and Afghanistan."

The proclamation from the mayor's office does just that. It places emphasis on the successes of a free nation due to the contributions NCOs have made since 1775.

Soldiers who wear the chevrons and rockers now know there's one more place in America that shows great respect for who they are and where they've been.

New officer continues military family tradition

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Christine Rynearson
207th Regional Support Group

Second Lt. Ryan L. Sheider joined the officer ranks this month graduating from Lander University with a Bachelor of Science in History, completing his ROTC program (Reserve Officer Training Corps), and earning his officer commission.

Sheider was commissioned May 8, 2009 at Presbyterian College. He was pinned by his father, Col. Richard Sheider, and his military retired grandfathers.

Sheider completed three years of Junior ROTC at Lexington High School before joining the Army and then ROTC at Lander University.

"I joined the Army and ROTC because of my father and

while enlisted I realized that I wanted to be the guy in charge making the choices for the Soldiers," Sheider said.

Sheider was a member of the 143rd ESC and served as a cadet with the 207th RSG at Fort Jackson.

(RIGHT) Second Lt. Sheider and the 27th Inductee of Presbyterian College ROTC hall of fame, Brig. Gen. E. Eric Porter.



207TH REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUP

NEWS

362nd Quartermaster Battalion welcomes new commander

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. KaRonda D. Fleming
210th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KINSTON, N.C. — The reign of the Headquarters, and Headquarters Detachment, 362nd Quartermaster Battalion were entrusted to a new leader at a change of command ceremony held May 3.

Soldiers within the 362nd assembled along with nearly 20 guests and family members, and welcomed the incoming commander, Lt. Col. Timothy P. Bobroski, who accepted the colors from departing commander Lt. Col. Roddy L. Adams.

The passing of the colors is a symbolic transfer of responsibility for mission, personnel, equipment, and of the unit. Col. James H. Griffiths, commander of the 207th Regional Support Group, passed command of the battalion from Adams over to Bobroski.

Adams has met and exceeded the challenges he faced over the past

year. Griffiths said "I am very proud of the dedicated Soldiers and what you have done so far."

"I have been impressed with your

willingness to help Soldiers and your devotion to duty. Never once did you complain about your assignment, nor did you miss a beat," Griffiths said. "I am confident standing here today saying that you are the best battalion in

"Always do what's right. We always have tasks to do, but what really matters is taking care of your Soldiers, your equipment, and your training," Adams said.

In 2000, Bobroski said he has been

with the battalion before as a supply support activities training officer for six years and has even gone to war with the 362nd.

Bobroski, along with his wife, Jill, and seven-year old son Nicholas all reside in Fuquay Varina, N.C. Bobroski also assumes duties as an employee with the U.S. Special Operations Command as a Department of the Army civilian.

The units assigned to 362nd include, the 431st QM Detachment, 665th QM Det., 824th QM Det., 849th QM Co., 210th Mobile PA Det., 650th Trans. Co.,

565th Trans. Det., 385th Trans. Det., 216th Trans. Det., 482nd Adjutant General Co., and the 460th Adjutant General Co.



Col. James H. Griffiths (center), commander of the 207th RSG, passes the incoming commander of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 362nd Quartermaster Battalion, Lt. Col. Timothy P. Bobroski (left) the guidon as Command Sgt. Maj. Vernon Franks (right) awaits its receipt during a change of command ceremony May 3 at the U.S. Army Reserve center in Kinston, NC.

the brigade."

The success of the 362nd is built upon how Adams was able to implement the successes of previous commanders Adams said.



469TH FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CENTER

NEWS

New Orleans Army Reserve center rebuilt after Hurricane Katrina

Story and photos by: Staff Sgt. KaRonda Fleming
210th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

NEW ORLEANS, La. - Soldiers attended the reopening of the James H. Diamond United States Army Reserve Center May 17. The facility was severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

There are 14 units that operate from the reserve center, said Lt. Col. Matthew T. Sims, the director for the 469th Financial Management Center. There are approximately 40 people that work in the building full time and approximately 450 Soldiers that attend battle assembly one weekend each month.

Sims, a native of Rose-dale, Miss., said the newly renovated space allows for the Soldiers to have more than enough space for everyone to do their work in comfort. With all of the equipment required to perform training and missions, it is important to have the needed space available, Sims said.

"Essentially, all the walls in the building were torn out and now all you have is offices on the south side of the building with an open space in the center where we have cubicles throughout three quarters of the building," Sims said.

"So, it is a much more open configuration in the building now. I think that it makes the layout more conducive towards teambuilding and working together. I think that there was a great effort made in ensuring that the building was designed for the team-like work effort that exists in the Army today," Sims said.

The facility was reconstructed and renovated by QBS Inc., a general contractor from Alliance, Ohio, said Mr.

Timothy D. Sykes, the supervisory staff administrator for the 469th FMC. The cost of the whole project was approximately \$17 million. Contractors almost gutted the entire facility. The arms room was the only structure left untouched, said Sykes, a native of New Orleans.

back to World War II when it was known as Camp LeRoy Johnson, said Sykes. It served its role with two main missions; to be the base hospital for injured Soldiers, and to serve as an airfield to train upcoming pilots. Today, the lakefront is all that is left of the airfield. He said several parts of

what was then Camp LeRoy Johnson was turned over to public agencies to include the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Southern University at New Orleans.

"The reserve center is the only one structure left that still remains entirely for the military," Sykes said.

The units occupying the reserve center include the 4010th U.S. Army Hospital, 7232nd

Installation Medical Support Unit, 787th Military History Detachment, 54th Military History Detachment, 1002nd Quartermaster Company, the 1192nd U.S. Army Transportation Terminal Battalion, 215th Public Affairs Detachment, 441st Transportation Company, 150th Judge Adjutant General Detachment, 3rd Judge Advocate General Detachment, 22nd Judge Advocate General Detachment, and the 2nd Judge Advocate General Detachment.

ABOVE: From left to right, Col. George G. Bugg, Col. Scottie D. Carpenter, Lt. Col. Matthew T. Sims, and Col. (Ret.) Michael Bendich cut the ribbon to officially rededicate the opening of the James H. Diamond United States Army Reserve Center in New Orleans, La., May 17. (LEFT): A portrait of James H. Diamond is displayed during the rededication ceremony. Diamond died in 1945 during a WWI battle.



Historically, the reserve center dates

642ND REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUP

NEWS

421st drops in on Georgia air show and hits the ground running

Story and photos by 1st Lt. David McRaney
642nd Regional Support Group

WARNER ROBBINS AIR BASE, Ga.— The 421st Quartermaster Company, (Light Air Drop) participated in the annual Warner Robins Air Base Air Show May 2 by performing a personnel parachute drop. The 421st worked with the U.S. Air Force Reserve aircraft from the 94th Airlift Wing stationed at Dobbins Air Reserve Base. Together they successfully deployed 32 parachutists.

By conducting joint operations such as this parachute drop, the Air Force Reserve receives training in conducting inter-branch missions, transporting cargo and for airborne operations. Conducting a personnel parachute drop allows the 421st parachute riggers to

maintain their current jump status. A rigger is required to perform a parachute jump every three months to be considered “current” and able to perform the primary duty of the 92R military occupational skill; packing parachutes.

These training requirements make events like the Robins Air Show a “must do” event, but require flexibility of the command and individual soldiers in changing schedules. This particular weekend was an additional battle assemble weekend for the 421st, but the soldiers did not complain.

“There’s no where else I would rather be,” said Sgt. Del Smith one of the unit’s soldiers.

The soldiers of the 421st conducted three passes putting 11 parachutists out on the first two “stix” with the remaining 10 parachutist exiting the aircraft on the last pass. All 32 soldiers successfully performed parachute landings or “PLFs” as they are called in airborne jargon. No injuries were reported.

After taking advantage of a captive audience, the 421st set up a static display allowing visitors to try on parachutes, ask questions, and if the unit is lucky, plant the seed that will lead a young man or woman to become the next 421st rigger.

(RIGHT): Sgt. Jesse Hudson, a member of the 421st Quartermaster Company (Light Air Drop), hands binoculars to a child visiting the 421st display at the Warner Robbins Air Show. 421st Soldiers jump regular in order to maintain their qualifications. (BELOW RIGHT): Soldiers from the 421st jump out of a U.S. Air Force Reserve C-130 during the Warner Robbins Air Show May 2. A total of 32 Soldiers participated. (BELOW LEFT): 421st Soldiers land on the airfield as onlookers watch them. The air show attracts thousands to the base each year.



321ST SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

NEWS

321st holds Yellow Ribbon event at family day celebration

Story & photos by Pfc. Antoinette Brooks
321st Sustainment Brigade

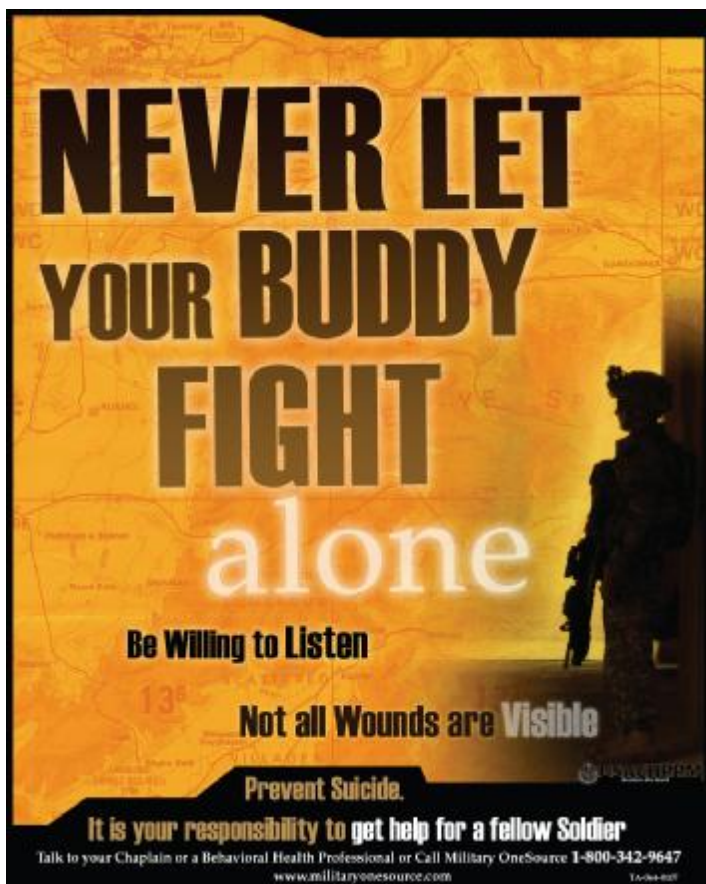
BATON ROUGE, La.— On May 2 the Soldiers and families of the 321st Sustainment Brigade in Baton Rouge, La. conducted Family Day as well as a Yellow Ribbon event. This day was planned to get the families of the deployed Soldiers together to show support for them, but also to show families that the extended Army family was there for them.

The Yellow Ribbon focused on informing the family members of their benefits such as TRICARE, DEERS, financial readiness and much more.

There were many activities set up for the children to enjoy themselves.

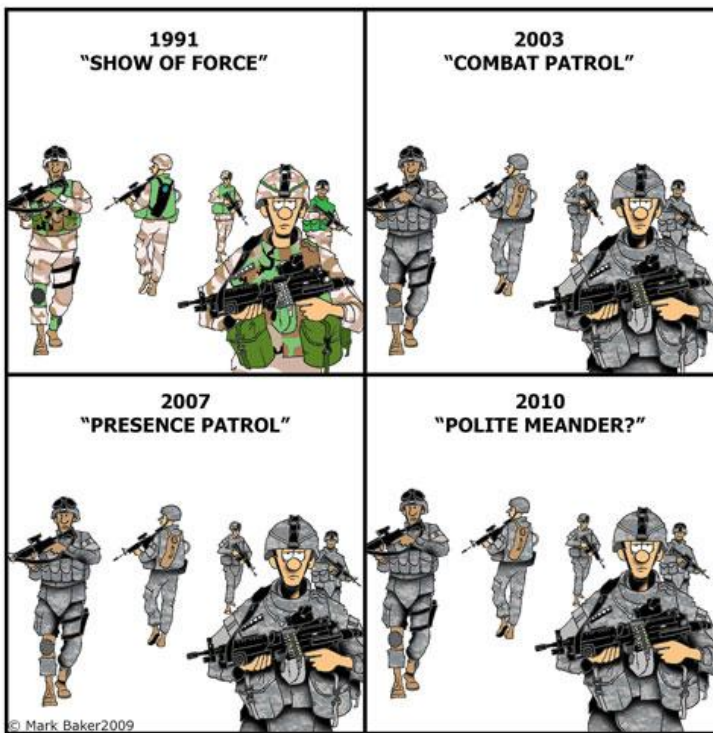


Children play on inflatable playgrounds during the 321st Sustainment Brigade's family day. The brigade incorporated one of their Yellow Ribbon events during the family day.



Pvt. Murphy's Law

By Mark Baker



News Briefs

Ten-Miler Adds Entries

WASHINGTON — Army Ten-Miler officials announced that an additional 500 race entries will be offered to U.S. Armed Forces service members through a special, online lottery held June 15 - 18. The ATM lottery is open to all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and winners will be randomly selected on June 19. The military lottery will be conducted online at www.armytenmiler.com. "Since this year's race sold out in a record six days this lottery will give an additional 500 men and women in uniform the opportunity to run Army," commented Jim Vandak, ATM Race Director. Military lottery registrants will need to use their military e-mail address with a .mil extension. Only one entry is allowed per email address. The registration fee of \$50.32 (includes the processing fee) is charged only to lottery winners.

NCO Forum

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, May 28, 2009) - Noncommissioned officers are communicating about issues ranging from combat operations to physical fitness - all on one internet forum developed by the Army. The forum, called NCO Net, is meant to make it easier for NCOs to share information, ideas and best practices among other NCOs. "NCO Net bridges the knowledge gap by allowing Soldiers to pass down institutional knowledge," said forum manager Joseph Pearson during a May 28 conference call with military bloggers. NCO Net is part of a larger program called the Battle Command Knowledge System, which was developed in 2004 to foster collaboration between Soldiers. Anyone with an AKO username is eligible to join the forum. To join, visit the AKO Web site link on the right side of the page and follow registration instructions.
<https://nconet.bcks.army.mil/>

Blogging (DOD LIVE)

The Defense Department has launched a Website for service members to post blogs. Visit this link for more info: <http://www.dodlive.mil/>.



912th Human Resources Company Staff Sgt. John R. Bunkley re-enlisted for 6 years enabling him to complete 20 years of military service. The re-enlistment ceremony took place at Forward Operating Base Salerno in Afghanistan April 23, 2009. Bunkley was sworn in by Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey. Bunkley is a human resources specialist (postal identifier) who resides in Panama City, Fla. and performs battle assemblies in Tallahassee, Fla. He was promoted to staff sergeant in March 2009 at the Fort Hood mobilization station prior to his departure. Photos courtesy 912th HR Company.



ESC Today Now Available Online!
ESC Today, the monthly magazine of the 143rd ESC is now available online at the 143rd ESC's new Internet Website at:
www.armyreserve.army.mil/143esc

The site is updated weekly with news from around the 143rd ESC. The magazine is located in the news section of the Web site.